Corralling the Kitty Herd: A Distributed Model for AG Documentation Production

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Objectives

- **The background**
- **The problem**
- **The solution(?)**
- **Start-up tasks (and other tasks)**
- **Call for volunteers**
- **Proposed timeline/next steps**

The Background

- **Need for documentation has out-paced creation of readily-available, "generic" documentation**
- **Enterprising (and sometimes under-pressure) individuals have developed a variety of documents, frequently specific to a particular organization or event**
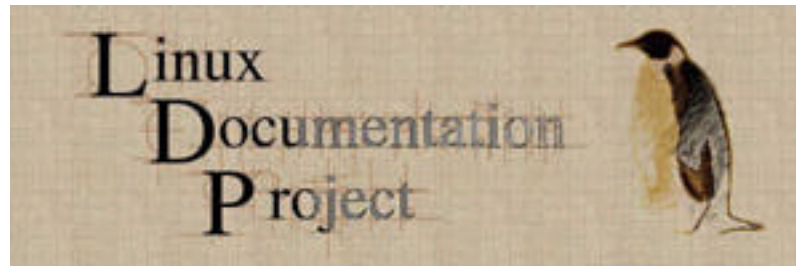- **Alliance AG Deployment group working on manual**

The Problem

- **New users (and old users attempting new things) have to hunt around for documentation**

- **Danger of duplication of effort**

- **Danger of important documents not getting written**
  - **Example: Is there a standard, AG-oriented intro to VNC? VTC?**

- **Currently hard and/or inefficient to share documentation with each other**

So, What to Do About It?

- **What we <u>don't</u> want to do**
  - Create an authoritarian or autocratic body
  - Create the "one true way" to use and/or document the AG

- **What we <u>do</u> want to do**
  - Provide a central source of trustworthy, well-organized documentation (canonical, even)
  - Make it (relatively) easy for authors to contribute to this effort

The Solution(?)

- **Access Grid Documentation Project (AGDP)**
- **Distributed documentation model based on <u>www.linuxdoc.org</u>**
- **Herd metaphor not perfect: we don't want a "herd mentality" here – independent thought is still both good and necessary**

AGDP Start-up Tasks

- **Determine what format(s) are required for new submissions, updates**
- **Determine format(s) for document publication**
- **Develop appropriate style guide, templates, and other guidance for authors**
- **Develop manifesto**
- **Develop document wish list**
  - **ie, list of stuff we wish somebody would submit**
- **Set up web site and mailing lists**
- **Set up revision control system**

A Few Related Tasks. . .

- **Figure out how to best use expertise already stored in ag-tech archives**

- **Beef up the FAQ-o-Matic**

- **Figure out where/how these might best fit into AGDP model**

Call for Volunteers

- **Team of reviewers**
- **Day-to-day operations management**
  - **Management of review process (ie, routing to appropriate reviewer(s), follow-up nudges to reviewers)**
  - **Posting (and/or formatting, converting, etc) documents and revised documents**
  - **General web site and mailing list maintenance**
- **Team to address format, style, authors' guide issues**

Proposed Timeline

- ## By February 15

  - **Firm up this proposed timeline/workplan**

  - **All feedback due from community on manifesto**

  - **Assemble team of reviewers**

  - **Assemble team to work on format, style, authors' guide issues**

  - **Find a Wonderful Person™ to provide day-to-day management, or determine a way to share/rotate responsibilities**

Proposed Timeline (Cont.)

- **By March 1**
  - **Manifesto finalized**
  - **Document wish list developed**
  - **Set up mailing lists**
  - **Document format(s) selected**
  - **First draft authors' guide available for review by AG community**

Proposed Timeline (Cont.)

- **By March 15**
  - **All feedback received from community on authors' guide**
  - **Set up web site**
  - **Set up revision control system**
- **By April 1**
  - **Authors' guide finalized**
  - **Launch the AGDP**